approved for the current year at varous railway stations are included in the Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme, Part-II, presented to the Parliament along with the Railway Budget Documents. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations during the current year. Out of this Rs. 18.78 crore is earmarked for new works during 1998-99.

**Complaints regarding unsatisfactory sanitation at railway stations**

3492. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of complaints regarding miserable and unsatisfactory sanitation at railway stations and in passenger trains has of late increased;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during last six months; and

(c) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to improve sanitation at railway stations and railway trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 97.

(c) Regular inspections are conducted by officers and supervising staff of Engineering. Commercial, Medical and Mechanical departments and the deficiencies/defects noticed are being attended promptly. Monitoring cells have been set up at Ministry/Zonal/Divisional headquarters' levels to monitor the passenger amenities including cleanliness. Besides, cleanliness drives are also launched periodically for maintaining a proper standard of cleanliness at stations and in trains.

**Purchase of A.C. Three Phase Locomotives from ABB.**

3493. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether railways have purchased 30 A.C. three phase locomotives for Rs. 641.49 crores from ABB and out of which 23 locomotives failed during the commissioning trial in 1993;

(b) Whether those locomotives are in running condition and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the said deal has been adversely commented upon by C.A.G. and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir, it is partly correct. Indian Railways purchased 30 nos. (10 passenger and 20 freight) AC three phase locomotives from ABB for Rs. 641.49 crores which were received from October 1995 onwards and thus question of their failure during the year 1993 does not arise.

(b) Yes, Sir. These locomotives are in running condition. The passenger locomotives have been deployed to haul *Rajdhani/Shatabdi* trains and Paryag Raj Express. Similarly, freight locomotives are regularly hauling freight trains on Eastern and Northern Railways.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is fact that certain aspects have been adversely commented upon by Comptroller & Auditor General's (C&AG) in its Report. The main issues raised in the Report are: acquisition of three phase AC technology at a cost of Rs. 22.00 crores per loco in preference to thyristor technolgy locomotive procured in the year 1985, payment of commitment charges to Asian Development Bank on unutilised portion of loan, delay in indigenisation due to restrictive conditions in transfer of technology and delay in rectification of defects

on locomotives in service. The detailed reply on various issues mentioned in the Report will be sent to Comptroller & Auditor General's (C&AG) in due course.

**Norms for Transfer of Staff Working in Railway Reservation Offices**

3494. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rules exist to keep staff of all categories working in reservation offices on rotational transfer, being sensitive posting;

(b) if so, the details thereof with duration of such posting;

(c) whether some of staff of all cadres working in Reservation offices at Delhi Main, I.R.C.A., New Delhi Station, Sarai Rohilla, Sarojini Nagar, Kirti Nagar, Nizammuddin, Azadpur, Parliament House and Rail Bhawan have completed their prescribed tenure;

(d) if so, the reasons for not transferring them so far;

(e) whether Government propose to improve working of reservation office near Parliament House Reception; and

(f) if so, the number of counters to be reserved for persons authorised by MPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Staff holding sensitive posts and who frequently come in contact with public and or contractors/ suppliers, are required to be transferred every four years. The categories of Enquiry-cum-Reservation Clerk and Reservation Supervisor have been identified as sensitive categories.

(c) and (d) In the exigency of service, it is not always possible to transfer all those who have completed four years at a place, in one go. However, during January to May, 1998, 199 transfers have been ordered in Delhi area.

(c) Watch is kept on the working of the Reservation office near Parliament House Reception to ensure adequate & Satisfactory service.

(f) Two terminals are available in Parliament House Booking Office for providing reservation to persons authorised by MPs.

**Direct BG Rail Line between Delhi and Kandla**

3495. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for direct rail link on BG line from Delhi to Kandla via Ajmer and Palanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) if no action has been taken so far, how Government propose to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) A direct broad gauge line already exists between Delhi and Kandla via Ajmer, Palanpur and Ahmedabad.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Safety of Passengers and Railway Property**

3496. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways are responsible for safety of passengers and railway property;

(b) whether it is a fact that trains in South Central Railways have become unsafe in the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to increase vigilance in the trains in South Central Railways details thereof?